

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Lee Cheng on March 10, 2010.

The application is amended as follows:

Claims 4-9 and 11 are cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-3 and 10 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a method of filtering a sample comprising a sample collecting container having a sample collection part, plug member, filter member, and a sample storage part wherein after collecting a sample in the collection part, a pressure difference is generated between the collection and storage parts by piercing the plug member with a communication needle thereby generating a communication between the internal space of the collection part and the atmosphere, and wherein the communication between the collection part and atmosphere results from piercing the plug member and occurs after the sample is collected in the collection part.

Additionally, the prior art does not teach or suggest a sample collecting container comprising a sample collection part having a through hole in a part of its inner surface, a plug

member having a flow channel formed in a part of its outer surface, a filter member, and a sample storage part wherein the flow channel establishes communication between the through hole and the interior of the collection part when its circumferential position is brought into coincidence with the through hole.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dwan A. Gerido, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571)270-3714. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9:00 - 6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vickie Kim can be reached on (571) 272-0579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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